
Skill Procedures:

Synchronized Cardioversion



I. Usage

1. Synchronized Cardioversion is indicated for rapid ventricular or supraventricular rhythms that are associated with inadequate cardiac output. This would include rapid ventricular tachycardia, atrial flutter or atrial fibrillation with a rapid ventricular response, or atrial tachycardia.



II. Contraindications

1. Synchronized Cardioversion should not be used to convert rapid rhythms known or suspected to be caused by digitalis toxicity.

III. Procedural Protocols

1. Attach ECG cable and electrodes.
2. Select Lead with optimum QRS complex amplitude (positive or negative).
3. Push SYNC button. SYNC message on status display blinks off with each detected QRS complex.
4. Observe cardioscope. Adjust ECG size up or down so sync markers occur only on the QRS complex.
5. Prepare and position paddles on patient's torso. The standard electrode placement is STERNUM to the patient's right upper torso below the clavicle and the APEX lateral to the patient's left nipple in the midaxillary line.
6. Select energy to be delivered with ENERGY select dial. Device will not charge if a position between numbered settings is selected.
7. Push CHARGE to charge defibrillator. A single tone sounds when charge is complete. Make sure all personnel, including operator, are clear of patient, bed, stretcher, and any equipment that might be connected to the patient.

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III. Procedural Protocols (continued)

8. Push and hold discharge buttons. Discharge occurs with next detected QRS complex. Release discharge buttons.
9. Observe patient and rhythm. If synchronized cardioversion needs to be reattempted, push SYNC again. (Device automatically returns to asynchronous mode after each discharge.)
10. To internally dump an unwanted charge, rotate ENERGY select dial.
11. To turn off defibrillator, turn POWER to OFF position.



Note Well: *All patient's requiring cardioversion should have appropriate oxygen therapy and a IV of normal saline started prior to cardioversion.*



Valium should be administered to alleviate the anxiety and discomfort caused by this procedure.